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FLOOR DEBATE

January 23, 2001 LB 130

you had more than two lines out, but the two-hook issue came into play and so Section 3 would clarify that. Section 4 clarifies the authority of the commission to promulgate rules and regulations concerning deer, antelope or elk causing damage to real personal property and the disposal of such animals. This gives them authority to deal with issues such as what happened in Lincoln where they found a deer in a swimming pool. They really didn't have the authority to remove that deer, I guess nobody did. But they did go in and remove it and this lets them offer that, and then they can use the meat for beneficial purposes, if at possible. Section 5 adds "sell or purchase" to the list of those in possession of wildlife contrary to the game law being liable for damages. The example I can give for this is somebody was catching more fish than they were allowed, but somebody else was an agent and selling them for them, but never really handled the fish. Well, they couldn't prosecute the person selling the fish because he never had them in possession. So this would allow them to prosecute someone who is selling or purchasing too many species of something illegally. Section 6 allows the credentialing of federal agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who are certified as federal law enforcement officers to be also credentialed as conservation officers of the commission. So, if a federal wildlife agent comes to the state of Nebraska, they can be credentialed to do the things that a Game and Parks law enforcement official can do. It limits the activities of those agents to the same activities that are under the authority of the Game and Parks commissioners at the present, or wildlife enforcement officers now. It does not expand on any of their duties. There is some question on that. Section 7, which I believe Senator Chambers has an amendment on to remove, and I will vote for that amendment, includes Game and Parks Commission officers under the definition of peace officer and removes the limiting language regarding where the Game and Parks Commission conservation officer may enforce the law. Currently, the limitation in area...area is under the control of Game and Parks Commission. That is a summary of LB 130. It should not be a controversial bill, with the exception of Section 7. We will examine Section 6 a little closer between now and Select File. If you have any questions, I will try to answer it; if not, that concludes my opening comments.